

OLC#76-3379

19 November 1976

Perrow
SSCI
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Denver Post Article of 18 November 1976
on SSCI Trip

1. Mr. Rick Inderfurth, Senator Gary Hart's designee on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence who has been detailed to the NSC Transition Staff, phoned me 19 November to mention and give me the background on an article appearing in the Denver Post on 18 November concerning Senator Hart's recent travel to [redacted]

The background was that the Washington correspondent of the Post, after checking various Congressional offices, was referred to Senator Hart's Press Secretary, who said that he was travelling on "Foreign Relations and Intelligence business." Upon questioning, she acknowledged this meant Senate Select Committee on Intelligence business but asked the Post correspondent to withhold the story until Senator Hart had an opportunity to discuss it with him upon the Senator's return. The correspondent acceded to this request and talked to Senator Hart on 17 November.

2. Senator Hart made the best of an imperfect situation by emphasizing the threat to our intelligence officers which arises from terrorists; the headline of the story reads: "Hart: Terrorists Main Threat to U.S. Spies." No particulars as to places visited are contained in the article which makes other innocuous points and acknowledges that Senator Hart will be making a secret report to the SSCI on his travel.

3. Mr. Inderfurth wished us to be aware of this as soon as possible and is sending a copy of the article to me by courier. He wished to apologize for this leak, but we agreed that the best had been made of an imperfect situation. He also wished to assure me that the Agency was obviously in no way responsible. I have advised the Office of Legislative Counsel and I am attempting to get through to Mr. Falkiewicz's office [redacted]

Distribution:

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